

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday

6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.

6:00 A.M. Daily

Holy Days:

6:00 A.M.; 8:00 A.M.; 7:00 P.M.

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery, Alabama

10:45 A.M.

Only on first Sunday

of each month

St Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 A.M.

Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS

December 28, 2008 – Red

Mass of Holy Innocents Gl; Cr; Pref. Nativity; Comm. Nativity

Weekly Bulletin #1075

*O Lord, uphold us and
our absent brethren.*

The Circumcision of Our Lord *Thursday, January 1, 2009 - Holyday of Obligation*



The Mystery Which is Jesus Christ

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and let us see this word that is come to pass which the Lord hath showed to us.

“And they came with haste; and they found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in the manger. And all that heard wondered, and at those things that were told them by the shepherds.”

Why were these men called before all others to worship the new-born Child? They were a simple and docile men – shepherders. They were uneducated and certainly not at all sophisticated people and members of any upper class of society. They were truly a lowly breed. Nevertheless they were the very first to be invited to come to see the New Baby and, merciful heavens, who were the ones who invited them but the angels of heaven. They were a patient group and they suffered the roughest hardships of their rough lives. The Holy Child, therefore, would teach us His first important lesson – that poverty and honest ignorance are not to be despised or to be ashamed of it. It is a very painful way of life, because it puts out of our reach the comforts, conveniences and amusements which make life pleasant. We care far too much for these things. An apple was too great a temptation for Adam and Eve, and nice things in the shape of food, dress, scents, bodily enjoyment of every kind, are often too much for us, their children. Not that pleasant things are bad. If bad, it is because **WE MADE THEM BAD**. A life of ease and self-indulgence, in which such things abound, is always a dangerous life, because the body never says: “It is enough.” The body is always ready to indulge itself at the expense of the soul, and to get what it wants it will not stop at sin. We have to distrust it and to be on the watch always. This is why the poor are safer by far than the very rich, if only they bear their privations patiently.

Our Lord came on earth to show us the safest way to heaven, and to show us in the best of ways, **BY EXAMPLE**, – the example of the Divine way on earth, and He began His work the very night He was born. The shepherds were quick to see that if Christ could suffer cold and privation, so could they.

20 + G + M + B + 09

(20 + Gaspar + Melchior + Balthazar + 09)



THE CEREMONY FOR THE BLESSING OF EPIPHANY CHALK



(Epiphany Chalk is used to write the inscription over all the doors of one's house. Soft classroom chalk of any color is best for writing on varnished or painted surfaces. A priest should bless the chalk on Epiphany Day, before the celebration of the main Mass of the day, using the following Blessing, which is taken from the Roman Ritual.)

- ✠. Behold, the Lord, the ruler is come; and the kingdom is in His hand, and power, and dominion.
O God, with Your judgment endow the king, and with Your justice, the king's son.
- ✠. Glory be to the Father ... *R.* *As it was in the beginning ...* (Repeat the above: Behold, the Lord ...)
- ✠. All nations shall serve Him. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✠. Nations shall walk by Your light, and kings by Your shining radiance. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✠. All from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord. *R.* *All nations...*
- ✠. Rise up in splendor, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord shines upon you. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✠. We have seen His star in the East, and have come with gifts to worship the Lord. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✠. The kings of Tharsis and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay Him homage; all nations shall serve Him. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*

Priest: LET US PRAY:

O Lord God, bless ✠ this chalk which Thou hast created, that it may be helpful to mankind; and grant that through the invocation of Thy most holy Name all those who use this chalk or with it write over the doors of their houses the names of Thy Saints, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may by their merits and intercession receive health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ Our Lord. *Amen.* *(Priest now sprinkles chalk with Holy Water.)*

(Later that day - or any day within the Octave of the Feast of the Epiphany - at home, the ceremony is completed by a priest or the father or senior member of the family. The following prayer is said once and at the main entrance of the house. All the family members should be present, and should accompany the priest or the head of the family as he or she goes from door to door - everyone keeping a respectful silence, or better yet, reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.)



THE CEREMONY FOR THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME



- ✠. Peace to my house. *R.* *And to all who live here.*
- ✠. The father of the just will exult with glee; let your father and mother have joy. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✠. Happy they who dwell in Your House, O Lord! Continually they praise You. *R.* *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✠. Blessed is the man who hears me and who watches daily at my gates and at the post of my doors. *R.* *All nations ...*
- ✠. O Lord, hear my prayer. *R.* *And let my cry come unto You.*

Father: LET US PRAY:

Hear us, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in my house. I call upon Your Saints, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect my family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place the marks of their holy names over the doors of my home to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord.

O God, make the door of my house wide enough to receive all who need human love and companionship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.

O God, make the door of my house the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom. I ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ Thy Son. *Amen.*

All nations shall serve Him

For the Holy Sacrament of confirmation

January 25, 2009

Conversion of St Paul Third Sunday after Epiphany

Celebrant: His Excellency Bishop José Rodríguez

Sponsors: George and Laurie Niebuhr

Nicholas Beasley

Joseph Fuller

Theresa Fuller

Hannette Hlang

Marie Therese Henderson

Jennifer Elizabeth Mielleur

Rebecca Mielleur

Victoria Mielleur

Joseph Patterson

Therese Louise Patterson

Amelia Pendleton

Anthony Pendleton

William Pendleton

Diamond Rose Strasser

Elizabeth Smith

Jeffrey Smith

Thomas Smith

Daphne Stanford

Stephen R. Stanford

Britney Twilley

Andrew Winland

Brother Louis McHenry O.S.B.

Sister Mary Philomena Henderson O.S.B.

Those who are to be confirmed should select a Saint's name, and present it to the Bishop at the time of Confirmation. Special cards will be issued for this purpose on the day itself. The name of the Saint, as well as the official name of the person being confirmed, should be PRINTED in clear print.

During the Mass no places will be reserved. At the time of the ceremony, all those receiving Confirmation will approach as for going to Holy Communion, however, all the gentlemen will, line up on the St. Joseph Chapel side of the center aisle, while, all the ladies will line up on the Lady Chapel side of the center aisle, and approach the Bishop one at a time.

Private sponsors are not possible, and therefore private sponsors are not permitted.

Carefully check the above list of names. If there is an omission or any other error, please notify the Abbot (in person) immediately. If anyone is unsure about the reception of the Sacrament, please notify the Abbot (in person) immediately.

Those asking for conditional reception of confirmation, please contact the Abbot immediately.

✠ IMPORTANT NOTICE ✠

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered for those in regular attendance at our traditional Roman Catholic Chapels in Alabama, here in our Abbey Church, on January 25, 2009. The matter of the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation remains the obligation and responsibility of the father and mother of the one to be administered to. The grandparents are not the responsible parties, nor are they the ones to make the arrangements, since they are not the ones responsible before God for the upbringing of the child. *it is most necessary and important that at least one of the PARENTS of the child to be Baptized or Confirmed regularly attend one of our Chapels.* For justifiable reasons, if the request for Baptism or Confirmation comes from elsewhere other than our own Chapels, then the PARENTS (NOT the grandparents) must submit a statement in writing from the priest in charge of the their traditional Chapel, stating that they - the parents - regularly attend the specified Chapel, and that he (the priest) is in agreement with the Sacrament being administered here at Christ the King Abbey in Alabama. If this cannot be verified, PLEASE DO NOT ASK.

Baptismal Certificates are necessary for the reception of Confirmation and must be presented BEFORE any arrangements are made. Unexpected arrivals should not expect to be admitted to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If the above rules cannot be honored, PLEASE DO NOT ASK